

## **DECD Recognized for Excellence in Economic Development**

### *Takes Top Honors at 2013 Site Selectors Guild Conference*

Commissioner Catherine Smith today announced the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) recently garnered national recognition from a top site selector organization for its economic development efforts, taking top honors at the 2013 Site Selectors Guild Conference held last week in New Orleans.

The Site Selectors Guild is a professional association comprising some of the world's most respected site selection consultants. The organization presented DECD with a 2013 Excellence in Economic Development Award for its exemplary work with Tronox Inc., a chemical company that announced last June it was locating its world headquarters in Stamford.

The project will result in a \$10 million capital investment and up to 100 jobs within three years. DECD is supporting the project with a \$3 million loan.

"It is quite an honor for the department to be recognized at the national level for its recruitment efforts. I am extremely pleased that Tronox now calls Connecticut home, and I am very proud of the agency's efforts in securing that project," said Catherine Smith, commissioner of DECD. "While the state's high-value, high-impact incentives were a key factor in bringing the project to our state, this award acknowledges how the DECD employees treat our customers: with responsiveness, accuracy, attention to detail, and ability to meet deadlines. These services were ultimately what set us apart from the competition."

The Site Selectors Guild Conference is the largest gathering of site consultants in the world. The Guild presented several awards at the event.

"Our partnerships with economic developers are critical to the success of our projects. These agencies and individuals demonstrated excellence in the economic development process and were tremendous partners," said Jerry Szatan, Site Selectors Guild president.

"This is our opportunity to formally recognize economic development professionals who have gone above and beyond in serving their communities," said Don Schjeldahl, chairman of the awards committee.

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